



First newspaper in Iraq to serve coalition forces and the Tallil Air Base community.

# The Tallil Times

Vol. 1, No. 5

407th Air Expeditionary Group, Tallil Air Base, Iraq

Friday, June 20, 2003

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tallil Troop Takes Aces High

Master Sgt. Wayne "Cash Money" Stanton, Tallil, Paying Agent, recently received the prestigious Aces High award. This monthly award recognizes the top enlisted person in the financial career field and is presented by the Chief Master Sgt. of the Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management.



Stanton is a native of Portland, Oregon and a 1983 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1983 and attended basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas and financial management technical training at Sheppard AFB, Texas.

### Squadron Photos

As personnel begin to rotate out of Tallil, the Public Affairs Office will provide an opportunity for squadrons to have a group photo. Currently the Public Affairs office is accepting appointments for squadron photos to be taken on June 28 and 29th. Group photos only; sorry, no individual shots. If you have already had a group photo shot by PA, please do not schedule another. For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office at 459-0014.

### They Say It's Your Birthday!

The 407th Services Team honored all babies born in May and June with a special birthday dinner on Saturday. Birthday folks enjoyed steak, shrimp, scallops and a special birthday cake.

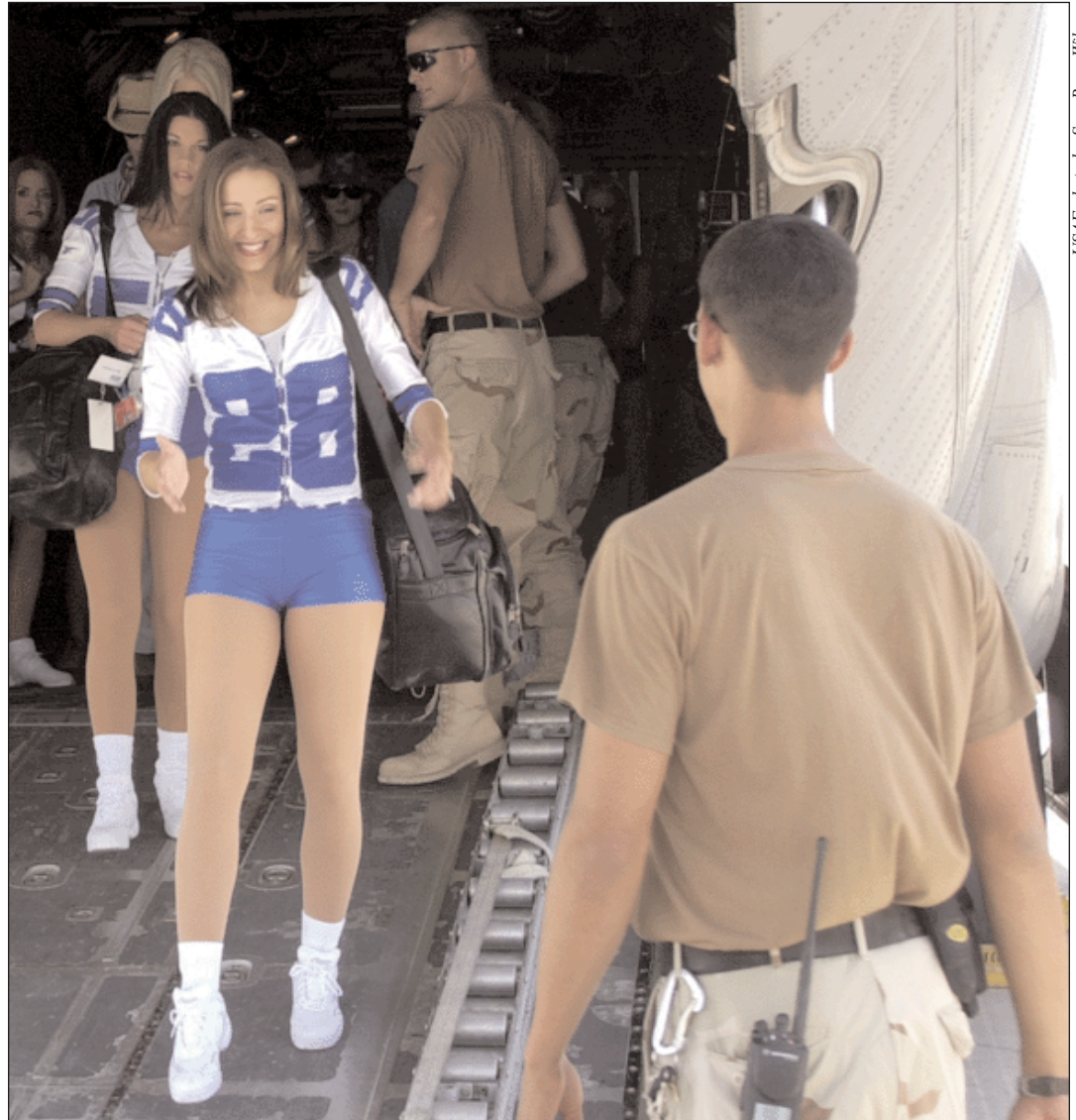
### Chapel Double Feature Night

On Wednesday night, the Air Force chaplains will sponsor a double feature movie night, *Men in Black II* starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith; and *The Mummy Returns* starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz. The movie is free and open to all Tallil Personnel. Movie night begins at 7 p.m. The movie is open to all Tallil personnel.

### The Last Shot, Really

Due to space requirements, the *Tallil Times* has discontinued **The Last Shot** normally found on the last page of the newspaper. The photo's enormous size pushed the final file size of the paper over the 2 megabyte limit. For more information, call 459-0014.

## USO's Project Salute Renders Stop For Tallil Soldiers, Airmen



USAF photo by Spec. Ryan Wilson

▲ **COOL CARGO! IT DOWNLOADS ITSELF!** The NFL's Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders exit a C-130 Hercules aircraft on the ramp at Tallil Air Base Wednesday. They arrived as part of "Project Salute 2003", the USO's first entertainment tour to the Persian Gulf since Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By Master Sgt. Deb Smith

Editor, Tallil Times

Carrying on a tradition that is more than 60 years old, the United Service Organizations, once again brought a slice of

Americana to service members overseas. This time, they served up a generous helping of music, comedy and excitement to an estimated 4,000 members of the coalition forces stationed at Tallil Air Base, Iraq.

While temperatures soared into

the 120s, the only thing hotter than the weather on Wednesday was the talent standing on stage.

Headlined by the USO's Celebrity Circle Chairman, Wayne Newton, the brief event featured comedian Paul Rodriguez, actress Brittany Murphy, singers Chely

Continued on page 2

## USO Show: First Post War Tour in Iraq

Wright and Neil McCoy, and the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders.

Staff Sgt. Angel Vega of the 744th Military Police Battalion said he braved the blistering heat "to see comedian Paul Rodriguez—and of course, all the Cowboy Cheerleaders!"

Kicking off the festivities was Mr. "Las Vegas" himself, Wayne Newton, who took the stage and offered a heart felt thanks to all those who serve.

"I just want you to know that we are all grateful for the job you do over here," said a patriotic Newton from a dusty make-shift stage outside the Tallil Air Base Exchange. "What you've done is absolutely tremendous and will help ensure that...our country is never again held hostage by terrorism."

Singer Neil McCoy was joined on stage with the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders for a lively song and dance act.

Female vocalist Chely Wright, whose brother just completed a tour of duty in Iraq, performed one of her original compositions on guitar. The Kansas-native had nothing but praise for those who serve.

"I grew up having great reverence for the military," said Wright in a press release. "My grandfather was in the Army, my father was in the Navy and my brother is in his 12th year in the Marine Corps. I was just brought up to respect mil-

itary men and women--rightly so, because I have a lot of liberties that someone else had to go fight for."

But perhaps the most striking moment of the show came from noted Latino actor and comedian Paul Rodriguez who offered a moment of silence to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation.

"For me I really enjoyed the group singing *America the Beautiful*," Vega added. "It was just so great to see all the troops, my brothers and sisters, pause for a moment and remember our fallen comrades."

Before departing the base, the entourage signed autographs, posed for photos and made a brief stop at the 407th EMEDS facility to visit staff and patients unable to attend the show.

This was the USO's inaugural stop in Iraq and is part of the organization's first entertainment tour to the Persian Gulf region since Operation Iraqi Freedom began. Dubbed "Project Salute 2003," the program travels with entertainers and professional athletes paying tribute to the men and women of both the U.S. and coalition armed forces.

According to the USO Web site, the tour includes a variety of

performances, special movie screenings, basketball clinics and visits with service members located at military installations throughout the Southwest Asia region.

The tour is a cooperative effort of the Defense Department's



USAF photo by Spc. Ryan Wilson

**▲ A STAR IS BORN:** Spc. Juan Arce from the 110th Maintenance Company gets a little professional help from Neil McCoy (left) and Wayne Newton (right) as he performs during Wednesday's USO show. Newton and McCoy were part of "Project Salute," the USO's first tour since Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Armed Forces Entertainment Office, the USO, the Intrepid Museum Foundation, Tribeca Film Institute, Vanity Fair, MTV and the National Basketball Association. Northwest Airlines is providing transportation.

Project Salute was founded in December 2002, when Robert De Niro visited service members at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., with Commander-in-Chief US Central Command, General Tommy R. Franks.

## All Airmen Reminded to Update vRED

Courtesy of AFPC News Service

In the five months since the official launch of the virtual record of emergency data, more than 383,000 airmen have updated their contact information. While this number is impressive, there is more work to be done, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

"It's imperative we have every airman -- active duty, Guard and Reserve -- fill out their emergency contact information," said Maj. Jerry Couvillion, chief of the center's casualty services branch. "The information is essential for our casualty notification teams in case an airman becomes incapacitated or worse yet, killed."

Better known as vRED, this online form replaced the paper Department of Defense Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, as the only way for airmen to provide personal emergency information. By filling out the form from any Internet-connected computer, Air Force casualty officials have immediate access to critical information needed to contact family members if an airman becomes missing, suffers a serious illness or injury, or dies, he said.

"Accurate and current family-contact information prevents unnecessary delays," said Couvillion. "It also avoids hours or even days of uncertainty during which casualty teams are sometimes left to track down next of kin."

New procedures require all airmen to update their information electronically every six months, before deployments and after permanent changes of station.

On the AFPC Web page, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>, people can enter the virtual military personnel flight by clicking on the "vMPF" logo at the top of the page. New users will need to establish an account.

### The Tallil Times

Vol. 1, No 5

June 20, 2003



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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Tallil Air Base Public Affairs office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The **TALLIL TIMES** accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which may be submitted to the PA staff located in the

Wing Operations Center (WOC), or can be sent directly to the newspaper at [tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil).

Deadline for submission is 2:00 p.m. Thursday the week before publication. All submissions are edited for content and Air Force journalistic style. Submission of articles and photos does not guarantee publication. The editor reserves the right to publish, reject and edit all news stories in accordance with the **TALLIL TIMES** editorial policy. For more information, visit the PA office located in the WOC or call at 459-0014 or e-mail the editorial staff at [407.pa@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:407.pa@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil).



## IN BRIEF

All times are local.

### U.S. Air Force Worship Services

#### Catholic

##### Daily Mass

Mon, Wed, Fri 6 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

##### Vigil Mass

Saturday, 6 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

##### Sunday Mass

Sunday, 8 a.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

Sunday, 9:30 a.m., LSA Adder Chapel

##### Thursday

RCIA/Adult Ed., 6:30 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

POC: Ch. Fitz-Patrick, 459-0038

#### Protestant

##### Traditional

Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

##### Contemporary

Sunday, 7 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

##### Gospel Service

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

POC: Ch. Collins, 459-0038

#### Latter Day Saints

##### Lay-Led Service

Sunday, 2 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

##### Gospel Study

Thursday, 7 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Annex

POC: Staff Sgt. Hager, 573-1107

#### Jewish

##### Lay-Led Service

Friday, 6 p.m., 407th AEG ESFS Compound (BDOC)

POC: Ch. Collins, 459-0038

#### Muslim

##### Prayer

Daily, 12:30 p.m., LSA Adder Chapel

Daily, Sunset, LSA Adder Chapel

#### Bible Studies

##### Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., USAF Post Office

##### Protestant Bible Study

Friday, 7:30 p.m., USAF Post Office

##### Catholic Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Chapel Tent, open to all who are interested in the Catholic faith

##### God's Purpose for You

Fridays, 7:30 p.m., USAF Post Office

#### Chapel Movie Night

On Wednesday night, the Air Force chaplains will sponsor a double feature movie night, *Men in Black II* starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith; and *The Mummy Returns* starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz. The movie is free and open to all Tallil Personnel. Movie night begins at 7 p.m.

### U.S. Army Worship Services

#### Catholic

##### Sunday Mass

Sunday, 8 a.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Community Chapel

##### Wednesday Mass

Wednesday, 6 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

POC: Ch. Fitz-Patrick, 459-0038

#### Protestant

##### 36th EN Group

Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 8 p.m., 36th EN Briefing Tent

Bible Study, Wednesday, 8 p.m., 36 EN Briefing Tent

Bible Study, Friday, 8 p.m., 109th EN BN DFAC Area

POC: Ch. Bedsole, 573-1078

##### 1/293rd IN

Sunday, 10 a.m., See Ch. Nedza for location

Bible Study Nightly, 9 p.m., See Ch. Nedza for location

##### 63rd Signal Battalion

Daily Devotional, 12 p.m., Main Building

POC: Ch. Addams, 833-1032

##### 92nd Engineer Battalion

Sunday, 9 a.m., See Ch. Min.

Wednesday, 8 p.m., See Ch. Min.

Black Diamond Bible Study, 6 a.m. See Ch. Min.

POC: Ch. Min, 573-1231

##### 171st ASG

Friday, 10 a.m., Community Chapel

Sunday, 1 p.m., (Gospel) Community Chapel

Sunday, 8 a.m., and 8 p.m., 86th CSH

Wednesday, Bible Study, 8 p.m. Chaplain's Office

Tues - Thurs, Praise and Prayer, 8 p.m. Chaplains Office

POC: Ch. Addams, 833-1032

##### 189th Combat Support Battalion

Sunday, 9 a.m., "GO Chapel"

Tuesday, Choir Practice, 8 p.m., "GO Chapel"

Wednesday, Bible Study, 8 p.m., "GO Chapel"

Thursday, Bible Alive, 8:30 p.m., "GO Chapel"

POC: Ch. Young, 573/1288/1289

##### 450th Movement Control Battalion

Sunday, 10 a.m., North end of main building

Thursday, Bible Study, North end of main building

POC: Ch. Souter, 833-1005

### U.S. Army Worship Services

#### Various Faiths

##### Sunday

Sunday, 9 a.m., ROK Army Chapel

Sunday, 9 a.m., ROK Army Chapel

Sunday, 9:30 a.m., (Catholic Service) ROK Army Chapel

Sunday, 9:30 a.m., (Buddhist Service) ROK Army Chapel

Daily, Morning Prayer, 4:30 a.m., ROK Army Chapel

POC: Ch. Lee, 573-1227

#### Latter Day Saints

##### Sunday

Sunday, 2 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Tent

##### Gospel Study

Thursday, 7 p.m., 407th AEG Chapel Annex

POC: Staff Sgt. Hager, 573-1107

#### Jewish

##### Lay-Led Service

Friday, 6p.m., 407th AEG ESFS Compound (BDOC)

POC: Ch. Collins, 459-0038

#### Muslim

##### Prayer

Daily, 12:30p.m., 63rd Signal Battalion

Daily, Sunset, 63rd Signal Battalion

### Notices (Both AF and Army)

#### Morale Calls

Do not use workplace phones for morale call purposes.

#### Driving on Base

Speed limits on base are 30km/18mph during the day and 10km/6mph at night. Helmets are required in all tactical All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) and "Gators."

#### Run Routes

Running in groups of two or larger is authorized in two locations: from the BX/PX parking lot and off the main gate road toward the burn pit. The required uniform is T-shirt and shorts or pants. Running is not authorized on any other road.

#### Ammunition Storage

The 38th Ordnance Group provides ammunition storage for units on Tallil Air Base. Contact Mr. Matheson at 573-1258 for more information.

#### Unexploded Ordnance

Do not touch unexploded ordnance. Do not travel off the hardpack except in areas cleared by EOD. There are still thousands of UXO on this base. Army - Report all UXO to "Bomber Base" on tactical radios or call 573-1074. Air Force - Report all UXO to "Command Post" on the CC Net or call the Command Post at 459-0000 or EOD at 459-0108/9.

#### Ziggurat of Ur

Visits to the Ziggurat require a pass. For information, U.S. Army personnel may call 573-1107.

Air Force Services has expanded its tour schedule to include 2 afternoon visits to the Ziggurat. For info, please call the Air Force Rec Tent at 459-0121. The schedule now looks like this:

*Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays:*

10 a.m. (show time of 9:30 a.m. at the Rec Tent)

*Sundays and Wednesdays:*

2 p.m. (show time of 1:30 p.m. at the Rec Tent)

**Bring helmet, flack jacket and weapon.**

#### AAFES BX/PX

AAFES hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### NOTICE

To help everyone get the most out of their facilities and stay good neighbors, the *Tallil Times* reminds all readers that each MKT, dining hall, shower tent, latrine tent and morale tent is specially sited, stocked and serviced for certain numbers of people in a certain area. These amenities work well if only those people use them, but additional people rapidly use up whatever food, water and "stuff" were planned for the intended users. If you aren't among the intended users, you take away from those who are and in the long run hurt that unit's ability to properly serve their people. Help others and yourself to have enough when you need it.

# 407th Pilots, Rescue Team Save F-16 Pilot Downed Over Southwestern Iraq

By 2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez

Chief of Public Affairs, 407th AEG

**T**he swift actions of several airmen from Tallil Air Base helped save a fighter pilot from an uncertain fate shortly after his F-16CG crashed in the Iraqi desert, approximately 80 miles southwest of Baghdad.

A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 407th Air Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and HC-130s from the 407th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron scrambled to the location of the distressed pilot who went down shortly after 6:30 a.m. June 12.

"I was already flying on the tanker air refueling track," said Capt. Scott Twesme, 407th EFS pilot. "From what I heard on the radio, he (the F-16 pilot) was right behind the tanker getting ready to get gas ... all of the sudden he says 'Hey I've got a fuel problem, I need gas now!'"

The A-10s, who were already airborne in the vicinity were the first to hear the pilots haunting "mayday" call.

Shortly after, Twesme said the pilot disappeared.

"So I switched (radio) frequencies and talked to the local controller and told him to relay the message that he (F-16 pilot) had flamed out and to scramble the Jollies," said Twesme referring to the 407th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron's HH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicopters stationed at Baghdad International Airport.

As the Jollies and the HC-130s were alerted, Twesme and his wingman then flew south toward the crash site to make contact with the downed pilot and his wingman.

"He was still in his chute coming down," Twesme said. "And his wingman talked me over to where he was ... he landed and a big cloud of dust came up."

Innately, Twesme took command of the scene from the air, established contact with the downed pilot, reassuring him that help was on the way.

"I told him 'drink your water man,'" he chuckled. "But he was okay-and really kind of lucky. He wasn't injured at all from the ejection."

Twesme and his wingman covered the area and provided the necessary close air support to protect the pilot from any hostile threats that



▲ **IF YOU'RE DYIN, THEY'RE FLYIN':** With the help of the 407th EFS pilots, pararescuemen from the 407th ERQS at Baghdad International Airport recently rescued a downed F-16 pilot approximately 80 miles Southwest of Iraq's capital city. Here, pararescuemen take part in a training exercise at Tallil Air Base. "PJs" as they are called, are trained to rescue, stabilize, and recover downed and injured aircrew members in remote areas, often under combat conditions.

may have surfaced.

"Our job is to find the guy and protect him," said Capt. Jason Rueschhoff, also a pilot with the 407th EFS who flew one of the six A-10s that took part in the rescue operation.

Within minutes, the pararescuemen from Baghdad and Tallil's 407th ERQS HC-130s were airborne and on their way to the site.

"Basically, we were there to provide PJ support and refueling capabilities to the helos from our Baghdad site," said Major Hugh Funk, operations officer for the 407th ERQS at Tallil.

Ironically, the pilot that Rueschhoff helped save was not just another pilot, but actually a close friend from pilot training.

Rueschhoff had thought the voice of the downed airman sounded familiar, so he called to the airman and ask him to verify his nickname, which subsequently confirmed his identity.

It was him.

"If he would have picked A-10s over F-16s during flight school," Rueschhoff joked.

"Then he would have been the one doing the rescuing, not the one being rescued,"

However, less than two hours after the F-16 went down, pararescuemen in HH-60 helicopters from the 447th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron executed a "textbook pick up" according to Funk. The pilot was transported the nearest Air Force medical facility for treatment.

The cause of the crash is unknown at this time and is currently under investigation by Air Force officials.

## Words for Warriors

"To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions."

—Benjamin Franklin



# Printing Company Donates 25,000 Decks of "Most Wanted" Cards

By Zeno Gamble

Special to American Forces Press Service

Many people are seeking copies of the Defense Department's "Iraqi Most Wanted Cards." Unfortunately, many U.S. troops are seeking them as well. A North Carolina company is working to ensure more troops — 25,000 to be exact — get their own deck.

Defense officials created the cards to help service members identify members of Saddam Hussein's regime, but they had only a limited number printed. PBM Graphics Inc., a national printing company located near Durham, is printing more cards this week.

Company officials decided to donate the cards after reading an article about the military's program in USA Today, said Tom Arnold, PBM's corporate director of marketing. They plan to distribute the new decks through the USO. "When this came up," he said, "we thought there's got to be a lot of soldiers over there. If there were only 1,700 cards sent over origi-

nally, then there are a lot of guys that would love to have a deck of cards."

Community involvement plays an important role in PBM's mission, Arnold noted. The company supports various organizations and groups that raise money for cancer research and other charities.

"One of the philosophies of our owner from Day 1 has been to give back to the community that has given so much to us," he said. "We're also doing some projects for the Special Olympics Team USA that's going to be competing in the World Games in Ireland at the end of this month."

PBM's card division primarily produces game and trading cards such as Pokémon, Harry Potter and Nintendo Game Boy cards. One recent undertaking was the "Heroes" deck of cards they printed for the Air Force, and they are excited about getting these new Iraqi Most Wanted decks to deployed service members.

"It's the first time that I've dealt

with the military at the Pentagon," Arnold said, "and I must say that the enthusiasm and the interest have been incredible."

Enthusiasm for the project is high among company employees as well. Many have ties to the military. Arnold's father retired as an Army lieutenant colonel. W.C. Mazingo, PBM's customer service representative, served as a National Guardsman for six years.

Relatives of the company's employees "cross the board" from Army to Air Force, Navy to Marines, Arnold said. Their extended family includes a Marine master gunnery sergeant and even a Navy Seal, both serving in Iraq.

"You don't have to walk far down this hall to find somebody with some attachment to the military," Arnold said. "We're not far from Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune and many of the other military establishments in this state."

When the war started in Iraq, company leaders discovered that many employees had sons or

daughters serving in the military — some of them in Iraq. The war touched home, Arnold said, when a family member of three PBM employees was killed.

Marine Lance Cpl. Alan Lam lost his life April 22 while serving with the 8th Communication Battalion. He was deployed from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group at Camp Lejeune. Lam's mother, sister and brother-in-law all work for PBM. The company held a ceremony in memory of Lam at its Greensboro, N.C., facility.

"Our prayers are with the soldiers over there," Arnold said. "I wish we could do more than we did. You see all this going on, and you wonder how you can be a part of it and what you can do."

The PBM folks appreciate the opportunity to support the nation's service members in Iraq, he concluded. "It's a labor of love for our employees, I can tell you that."

## President Nominates Retired General as CSA

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 16, 2003) -- President Bush has nominated retired Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker to be the U.S. Army's new chief of staff, following last week's retirement of former Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

Schoomaker spent three years as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., before retiring in 2000. He would be the first retired four-star officer ever to be called back to serve as the U.S. Army chief of staff.

In fact, Schoomaker is the first

retired general to be called back to active duty with the Joint Chiefs since President John F. Kennedy recalled Gen. Maxwell Taylor in 1962 to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Taylor had served a four-year term as Army chief of staff from 1955-1959, and retired in 1959 before being summoned by the president to return in 1962 as chairman.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced today that the president had nominated Schoomaker as Army chief of staff. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John M. Keane has served as

acting chief of staff since Shinseki's retirement June 11 and will continue in that position until the Senate confirms Schoomaker.

Schoomaker received a bachelor's degree in Education Administration from the University of Wyoming and an MA in Management from Central Michigan University. He was appointed as a second lieutenant in June 1969 and went to the Armor Officer Basic Course.



General Peter J. Schoomaker, USA

## Monthly Award Winners

Congratulations to the following 407th AEG monthly award winners:

### Airman of the Month

Senior Airman  
Eric Adams,  
407th ESFS



### NCO of the Month

Staff Sgt.  
Aaron N. Jackson ,  
407th ESFS



### S NCO of the Month

Master Sgt.  
Derrick Moniz ,  
407th ESFS



### CGO of the Month

1Lt Jesse M.  
Rosenbaum,  
407th ESFS



### Team of the Month

407th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team



(by rank) Master Sgt. Ken Pettibone, Tech Sgt. Christopher Sheets, Staff Sgt. Luke Ryker, Staff Sgt. Jacob Campbell, Senior Airman Aaron Davenport, Senior Airman Benjamin Ford, Senior Airman Derik Sinclair, Senior Airman Brian Chandler, and Airman 1st Class Ryan Bobzin.

# Post-Deployment Assessment Improves Personal Health Care

By Tech Sgt. David Jablonski

Air Force Print News

The Air Force surgeon general is meeting the health challenges of airmen returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom with a more vigorous, face-to-face approach.

Health-care providers have expanded and improved existing procedures by combining a larger database of existing health information about airmen, with more detailed information collected throughout their deployment, said Col. Deneice Van Hook, the SG's director of operational health support.

Injuries, changes in health, environmental conditions, and other potential factors are looked at with greater scrutiny to ensure any changes are documented and assessed, she said. "Throughout the '90s we have always done post-deployment health assessments, but our approach now is much more robust," Van Hook said. "In the past, our post-deployment health-assessment questionnaire was a minimal form with six questions. The new form has 24 questions and airmen now meet face-to-face with health-care providers to look at actual things they may have come in contact with while deployed, and to personally and privately discuss physical- or mental-health issues. It gives them a more secure feeling that somebody cares about their health."

This aggressive approach is part of a process that spans the length of an airman's career from accession through retirement and beyond, she said.

"The improvements in automation over the last 10 years have helped us compile personal health-care data and look at it in a better way," Van Hook said. "It's part of an ongoing process to improve our ability to care for airmen."

Before an airman deploys, health-care providers ensure all data is current and that any pre-existing conditions that may preclude deployment, such as pregnancy, are identified. Airmen also complete a detailed pre-deployment questionnaire, receive a thorough medical records review, provide a blood sample, and obtain information about possible hazards that may exist at the deployment location.

During the deployment, health, and health risks are monitored, usually by a deployed preventive-medicine team. The team monitors issues such as food, water and environmental hazards. Any chemical or biological threats are assessed on the spot and adjustments for protection are made while in theater.

As part of the redeployment process airmen also undergo a detailed, face-to-face health assessment. Technicians ensure a new blood sample is collected and stored for future reference. Within 30 days of return, a quality-assurance check is performed to ensure all requirements were met and the medical record is complete.

"Our focus is preventive and long term," said Van Hook. "Our goal is to have a total health picture of the individual by capturing conditions in their workplace, in their home and at every location that person has deployed to. We take a look at how all these things interact so we can do a better job at predicting and preventing potential illnesses."

This preventive approach to health care at work, at home and in the field represents a more long-term approach that allows health-care providers to better predict illness and keep one step ahead of the threat, Van Hook said.

## Spending Accounts Open for Enrollment

Enrollments in the federal Flexible Spending Accounts program are now being accepted by the contractor. The deadline for Air Force civilians to enroll in the program has been extended to June 27, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

FSA is a new employment benefit that allows federal employees to set aside pre-taxed dollars for many common expenses not covered by the Federal Employees Health Benefit program or any other source.

Administrative problems prevented employ-

ees from enrolling in the program when the open season began May 19, AFPC officials said.

"Although employees must enroll by the 27th, they won't see deductions from their paycheck until the pay period ending Sept. 20," said Janet Thomas, human resources specialist here. "Because of that, the (coverage period) for Air Force employees who enroll during this current open season will be Sept. 1 to Dec. 31."

For more information or to enroll, visit [www.fsafeds.com](http://www.fsafeds.com) (AFPC News Service)



# New Muscle Beach Fitness Center Opens

Story and Photo By 2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez

Chief of Public Affairs, 407th AEG

In a final push to complete the major morale and welfare structures at Tallil Air Base, the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron stood up the new base fitness center Sunday evening.

The long anticipated facility, made of two combined general-purpose shelters, has been named the "Muscle Beach Fitness Center" after the noted improvised workout area put together by a group of Tent City fitness buffs.

"It's hard to believe that a week ago we were standing in the sand and sun in this very spot," said Master Sgt. Joseph Hatcher, 407th ESVS Superintendent of Fitness and Recreation, as he glanced around the the new, air-conditioned gymnasium.

It took just about a week to build the facility and move the equipment in, but the whole concept of a base gym started much earlier.

"It's been a challenge because we had to wait until now to get all the pieces to build the structure," said Maj. James McCleskey, 407th ESVS commander. "We brought them (the equipment) in bit by bit, and now we're just about there."

With the gym now built, the services troops, along with others, can now focus on standing up the new recreation center, said McCleskey.

"Our goal has been to get all the major facilities up before our replacements come in," the commander said. "They will have something to build on and make better."

The gym itself will be made better as more equipment arrives in convoys, as it has from the start, McCleskey added. The current line of equipment—much of it new—came as a result of the slated closure of Al Jaber Air Base in Kuwait.

"We don't have too many free



▲ **TIME TO PUMP YOU UP:** Master Sgt. Miguel Torres, 407th Expeditionary Medical Squadron enjoys lifting weights at the new Muscle Beach Fitness Center in downtown Tent City. The new facility opened on Sunday to an anxious crowd.

weights yet, but we've got more coming up," McCleskey said. "That's been one of the most requested items."

Currently, the fitness center is equipped with 13 large Cybex exercise units, 11 cardiovascular machines and a variety of flat, incline and decline benches.

"We've got a lot more cardio coming in," added McCleskey. "Eventually this place will be jam packed with equipment."

Aside from the mechanics of building the structure and equipping it, there is a deeper meaning that exists behind Air Force fitness centers, said McCleskey. Fitness centers, no matter where they are, give airmen the opportunity to get physically fit, which along with spiritual and mental fitness, helps achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"This is a personal highlight," said the commander about not only the new fitness center but his time deployed to Tallil AB. "It's just

been a great growth experience for me ... I've learned a tremendous amount from a services perspective."

The Muscle Beach Fitness Center will be open 24 hours a day, with minimal closure for cleaning said McCleskey.

"Every day here," concluded Hatcher. "It just gets better."

## Words for Warriors

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

—John F. Kennedy

## Life Just Keeps Gettin' Better

Life indeed just seem to get better and better. Take a look at the up and coming new Services facilities slated for the very near future:

### Morale Phones:

Services is currently working working with Comm on this project. There will be at least the 6 phones that were in the old Morale Tent, but services is trying for 10.

### Morale Computers

Services is targeting approximately 20 new morale computers to help ease the longer lines. Services is working very closely with Comm as they re-work the base infrastructure. Details to follow soon.

### Video Gaming Room

Plans are underway for a new video gaming room to include Playstations, X-Box and such. Bring own games, but games and controllers must remain in the area. Coming in the near future.

### Movie Theatre

Movie viewing room complete with 61" television, regularly scheduled movies and popcorn. Services is also working on tiered seating area.

### Retail Center

Small area within the Services complex for the sale of snacks, sodas, and other small items. In the future, the group is looking at selling trinkets and possibly bingo for prizes.

### Lounge:

Area to kick back and chill. AFRTS-enables televisions to show the news and other programming.

### Note:

Sorry. These amenities will be for authorized users only. Only personnel assigned to the 407th, and those that directly support the 407th will be permitted to use these facilities.

USAF photo by Spec. Ryan Wilson, USA



# BEST —GIVE US YOUR— SHOT

We want to see Tallil Air Base and the surrounding areas from the inside out and we need your help. If you've got a digital camera, then we want to talk to you!

Send us your best digital photo for the week and we'll chose the top shots to be published in the next **Tallil Times**.

When submitting photos, make sure they are of reasonable quality, and are in a .jpg or .gif format. Next, make sure you provide us with an accurate description of the event and **COMPLETE** names of all persons pictured.

Photos without complete information cannot be considered. Photos must be in good taste and not compromise safety or security in any manner.

If you have questions, please contact the Public Affairs Office at DSN 459-0014 or send your questions directly to [tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil)

## Congratulations Team Tallil!

From the staff of

The Tallil Times

▲ **SWINGER (Large):** Capt. McArthur Walker, 1208th Quartermaster Water Support Company, puts the ball right over third base at Saturday's exciting game against the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. The 'Bama Water Dogs placed third over all.

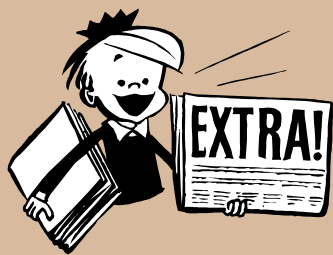
▼ **WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:** The combined Air Force softball team—Team Tallil—poses for a quick victory shot. They were the only undefeated team in last weekend's Army Birthday Softball Tournament.



USAF photo by Spec. Ryan Wilson



USAF photo by Master Sgt. Deb Smith



## GOT NEWS?

Tell it to  
The Tallil Times

[talill.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:talill.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil)



▲ **HAVE A BALL:** Tech Sgt. Mark Evans, 407th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, throws a zinger to a batter Saturday morning. (Photo by Spc. Ryan Wilson)

▼ Staff Sgt. "Mikie" Alvarze, 2220th Transportation Company and center fielder for Team Arizona, gets under a pop ball in a final round game against Team 'Bama, 1208 Quartermaster's Company.



USAF photo by Spc. Ryan Wilson

USAF photo by Spc. Ryan Wilson



▲ **PARDON MY DUST:** Staff Sgt. Chad McDowell stirs up a little Iraqi dust as he slides into third base during a final game of Tallil's first softball tournament.

► **LAST ONE OUT:** Staff Sgt. Chad McDowell's catch scores an out on Sgt. Geraldene Garrett for Team Arizona, 2220th Transportation Company. This out was the last out in the final round game between Team Arizona and Team 'Bama, 1208 Quartermaster Company.



USAF photo by Spc. Ryan Wilson

## AIR FORCE FUN RUN



There will be a 2-mile Fun Run on June 22 at 6:30 a.m.. The starting point for the run will be the parking lot of the BX/PX.

USAF photo by Master Sgt. Deb Smith

# Online Registration, Voting Expands

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

A Department of Defense voting experiment in the 2000 presidential elections that allowed military and overseas voters to cast their ballots through the Internet will expand in 2004.

Beginning this fall, Federal Voting Assistance Program officials hope to get as many as 100,000 military members -- state-side and overseas -- their eligible dependents and U.S. citizens living outside the United States to take part in the secure electronic registration and voting experiment, said Polli Brunelli, the program director. The experiment covers only those U.S. citizens who fall under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Mandated by Congress, project-eligible voters from participating project states will be able to register and vote electronically via any Windows-based personal computer with Internet access from anywhere in world, Brunelli said.

In the 2000 experiment, 84 citizens located in 21 states and 11 countries voted in jurisdictions in South Carolina, Texas, Florida and Utah, proving the theory that online voting could work for voters wherever they lived, Brunelli said.

"We conducted a small 'proof-of-concept' experiment for the 2000 presidential election, and it was very successful. Now we are conducting another electronic voting project. Congress wants it to be large enough to be statistically relevant. This will allow us to make supportable recommendations to ... Congress on the future of Internet voting for (absentee voters)," she said.

Brunelli said that 10 states are interested in participating in the 2004 project: Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah,

Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington.

"We're looking for volunteer voters to participate in the project," she explained, "and we have a Web site where interested voters can see if their voting jurisdiction is participating in the project. Beginning later this year, the voter can sign up, then register and be able to vote in the 2004 elections."

According to Brunelli, local and state election officials will use the system to receive voter registration applications, provide ballots to voters and accept voted ballots.

Brunelli said security during the registration and ballot process is a primary concern. The system will use digital signatures for registration and ballot encryption as part of the security features.

"People are concerned about Internet security. We've looked at the threats that could happen to this type of system, and we've developed mitigating measures to guard against those threats," she said.

Brunelli said that not every county in participating states will be part of the program. She said voters can find a list of participating jurisdictions on the program's Web site at <http://www.serveusa.gov>. Counties that do participate will include the "full ballot" for that election -- local, state and federal, she said.

## Words for Warriors

"The terrible thing about terrorism is that ultimately it destroys those who practice it. Slowly but surely, as they try to extinguish life in others, the light within them dies."

—Terry Waite



▲ **CELEBRATING 228 YEARS OF HOO-AH:** Left to Right: Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Acting Army Chief of Staff John M. Keane, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Vice President Dick Cheney, Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley and Master Sgt. David Mitchell cut the Army Birthday cake at the Pentagon. The U.S. Army celebrated its 228th birthday on June 13 with cake cutting and speeches honoring the Army's contributions since June 14, 1775. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bill Putnam.

## Short-Tour Credit Authorized for Contingency Deployments Overseas

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

A temporary exception to policy will award permanent change-of-station short-tour credit to many airmen deployed overseas for recent contingency operations, according to Air Force Personnel officials here.

Eligible airmen must have been on temporary duty starting on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for at least 181 consecutive days at an overseas location designated as a hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay area.

This credit is intended to reduce the chances of people being sent as non-volunteers to an unaccompanied short tour soon after a prolonged contingency deployment, officials said.

The change is an exception to current policy, which only authorizes short-tour credit for airmen accumulating 300 or more days on

TDY overseas during an 18-month period.

This exception is not without precedent. During operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, an exception was approved to authorize short-tour credit to people who deployed for at least 181 consecutive days from Aug. 1, 1990, to June 10, 1991.

Airmen are responsible for requesting short-tour credit through the military personnel flight's personnel employment element at their permanent duty station. The TDY travel voucher must be completed before airmen can apply for credit. The paid voucher will be the source document used to verify the dates of the deployment and if the location qualified for payment of hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay.



# Air Force Undefeated in Army Birthday Softball Tournament

By Spc. Ryan Wilson

Tallil Times General Assignment Reporter

**T**emperatures that breached the 120 degree mark, and perpetual dust did not keep 24 Air Force and Army Teams from celebrating Flag Day and the Army's Birthday with style—and 46 games of softball over the weekend.

The consolidated Air Force team—Team Tallil — was the only undefeated team in the double elimination tournament and took first place. Army teams represented, with 2220th Transportation Company Arizona Team taking second, and the 1208th Quartermaster Team 'Bama taking third.

The most exciting game was the final championship game between Team Arizona and Team Tallil Air Force. A sharp division between Air Force and Army flared up in the crowd, with recently defeated Team 'Bama cheering for the team that had just beat them out of the championship, and the 407th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron cheering for Team Tallil.

Right off the bat Tech Sgt. Tim Braxton, Staff Sgt. Brad Mattern, and Senior Airman Lee Mentele scored, the first three batters to score for Team Tallil. The Air Force didn't hold this lightning lead for long, however.

"The bats got quiet for the Air Force and the Army crowd got fired up," said Team Tallil's

coach, Maj. Craig Wilcox, 407th Air Expeditionary Group. "A couple of unfortunate mistakes in the field, some timely Arizona hitting, and a rambunctious crowd got the 2220th back in the game."

After three innings the score was tied 3-3, and after the fourth inning Team Arizona lead by four. Team Tallil picked up momentum in the end after five innings of inactivity. In the sixth inning Team Tallil tied up with Team Arizona 7-7 because of hits by Airman 1st Class Jeremy Thompson, Staff Sgt. Matthew Thrune, Staff Sgt. Jabbari Cooley, and Senior Airman Michael Turner-Sander.

Second Baseman Mattern's double play in the sixth inning and five points through two homeruns in the seventh inning were what won the game for Team Tallil. Mattern's hit cleared the bases, bringing Airman 1st Class Adam Runquist, Wilcox, and Staff Sgt. Hugh Hultman home. Tech. Sgt. Dan "Sweetness" Janssen, known for his smooth play as shortstop, scored the game's last point with a homerun that followed Mattern's homerun.

"The heart and desire of the entire Air Force Team in staging the comeback would make all those who wear the uniform proud," Wilcox said.

## AEF Center Improves Online Site

(Courtesy of ACC News Service)

The Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center here recently launched an improved version of their Web site, "AEF Online," to help airmen learn more about the AEF and provide information about deployments.

"We've made the site more user-friendly and more pleasing to the eye. Our goal was to organize information to allow people to find what they need more easily and quickly," said Maj. Beverly Nozolino, the chief of the AEF Center systems integration branch.

AEF Online continues to offer airmen links to many deployment locations, checklists and requirements.

"The Web site is constantly evolving, seeking to incorporate contemporary and useful information regarding what airmen can expect when they deploy in support of current AEF operations," Nozolino said. "As the AEF enters a post-Operation Iraqi Freedom transition

phase, we think now is a good time to make sure airmen know where to go to get the latest news and information about the AEF and deployments."

"The AEF is how the Air Force intends to conduct 21st-century warfighting -- it's here to stay," said Brig. Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, the commander of the AEF Center. "As the AEF continues to evolve, especially during very dynamic contingency operations like Operation Iraqi Freedom, getting the most current and relevant AEF information out to our airmen is a top AEF Center priority. Our newly revamped Web site, AEF Online, is intended to do just that. We encourage all airmen to visit the site and, if they have ideas on how to make it even better, don't hesitate to let us know."

Airmen can access AEF Online from any dot-mil computer at <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil>.

## Prevent Heat Stress, Illness

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Griffith  
407th AEG Safety Office

Sun, heat, and dirt are about the only things that don't change at Tallil Air Base. Of the three, sun and heat are a deadly combination if you don't take the right precautions.

Hot conditions put the body under a stress. Physical activity stresses the body even more. When heat is combined with physical activity, loss of fluids, and fatigue, it lead to a number of heat-related illnesses and injuries.

Heat stress can encompass a series of conditions including heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat rash or heat stroke. Each produces symptoms that can range from profuse sweating to dizziness, to cessation of sweating and collapse. High temperatures, heavy workloads, the type of clothing being worn, etc can induce heat stress.

Many victims of heat stress overlook the symptoms. At first, some may be confused or unable to concentrate, followed by more severe symptoms such as fainting. If symptoms occur, move the victim to a cool, shaded area, provide water and immediately contact the supervisor and medical personnel.

Here are some ways you can avoid heat stress and heat related illness:

- ▶ Make time to adjust to workloads when possible. It often takes two to three weeks to become acclimated to a hot environment.
- ▶ Assign heavier workloads during the cooler part of the day.
- ▶ Reduce the workload. Increase the use of equipment on hot days to reduce physical labor.
- ▶ Establish a schedule for work and rest periods during hot days.
- ▶ Train workers to recognize signs and symptoms of heat stress disorders and be prepared to give first aid if necessary.
- ▶ Choose appropriate employees. Avoid placing "high risk" employees in hot work environments for extended time periods. Realize individual employees vary in their tolerance to heat stress conditions.